

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The present listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the subject patent application.

Claim 1 (original): Scissors comprising in combination:

- a first shaft having a handle portion and a cutting portion separated by a first pivot location, said handle portion having a tubular portion;

- an adjustable thumb ringlet having an open portion and a hole;

- a flexible pin adapted to be inserted through the hole in said thumb ringlet and into the tubular portion of said first shaft for rotatably connecting said thumb ringlet to said first shaft;

- a second shaft having a handle portion and a cutting portion approximately separated by a second pivot location; and

- a second pin for pivotably connecting said second shaft to said first shaft in the region of the first pivot location and the second pivot location in such a manner that the cutting portion of said first shaft and the cutting portion of said second shaft cooperate as opposing cutting portions of said scissors.

Claim 2 (original): The scissors as described in claim 1, wherein said flexible pin is fabricated using thermoplastic polymers.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The scissors as described in claim 1, wherein said adjustable thumb ringlet is deformable such that the size of said ~~ring-shaped~~ adjustable thumb ringlet can be adjusted to fit a user's thumb.

Claim 4 (original): The scissors as described in claim 1, wherein the hole in said thumb ringlet is disposed approximately opposite of the open portion.

Claim 5 (original): The scissors as described in claim 1, wherein said flexible pin has a forward portion and a rearward portion, said thumb ringlet and said flexible pin cooperating such that the rearward portion of said flexible pin does not pass through the hole in said thumb ringlet when said flexible pin is inserted therethrough, and said flexible pin and said tubular portion of said handle portion of said first shaft cooperating such that the forward portion of said flexible pin is

captured in the tubular portion of said first shaft when said flexible pin is inserted therethrough.

Claim 6 (original): The scissors as described in claim 1, wherein the pivotable connection of said second shaft to said first shaft comprises means for adjusting the force between the opposing cutting portions of said scissors.

Claim 7 (original): The scissors as described in claim 1, wherein said thumb ringlet is substantially circular.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The scissors as described in claim 1, further comprising a finger ringlet disposed on said ~~first~~ second shaft.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The scissors as described in claim 8, further comprising a finger stabilizer disposed on said ~~first~~ second shaft in the vicinity of said finger ringlet.

Claim 10 (original): Scissors comprising in combination:

a first shaft having a handle portion and a cutting portion separated by a first pivot location;

an adjustable thumb ringlet having an open portion;

means for rotatably connecting said thumb ringlet to said first shaft;

a second shaft having a handle portion and a cutting portion separated by a second pivot location; and

means for pivotably connecting said second shaft to said first shaft in the region of the first pivot location and the second pivot location in such a manner that the cutting portion of said first shaft and the cutting portion of said second shaft cooperate as opposing cutting portions of said scissors.

Claim 11 (original): The scissors as described in claim 10, wherein said means for rotatably connecting said thumb ringlet to said first shaft comprises a flexible pin.

Claim 12 (original): The scissors as described in claim 11, wherein said flexible pin is fabricated using thermoplastic polymers.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The scissors as described in claim 10, wherein said adjustable thumb ringlet is deformable such that the size of said ~~ring-shaped~~ adjustable thumb ringlet can be adjusted to fit a user's thumb.

Claim 14 (original): The scissors as described in claim 10, wherein said means for pivotably connecting said second shaft to said first shaft comprises means for adjusting the force between said opposing cutting portions of said scissors.

Claim 15 (original): The scissors as described in claim 10, wherein said adjustable thumb ringlet is substantially circular.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The scissors as described in claim 10, further comprising a finger ringlet disposed on said ~~first~~ second shaft.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The scissors as described in claim 16, further comprising a finger stabilizer disposed on said ~~first~~ second shaft in the vicinity of said finger ringlet.